

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062357

EXDIS TOSEC 780

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 3623 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 19

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3623

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, JA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PLANS TO VISIT U.S.

REF: STATE 61126

SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S PRE-CONSULTATIONS MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER MIYAZAWA LATE MARCH 18, MINISTER REVIEWED GOJ
DESIRE FOR EARLY TOP LEADERSHIP CONTACT WITH U.S. AND PRESENT
STATE OF GOJ THINKING ABOUT TIMING POSSIBILITIES
FROM TOKYO POINT OF VIEW.
MIYAZAWA IDENTIFIED LATE JULY-EARLY AUGUST AS VIRTUALLY ONLY
FEASIBLE TIME FOR MIKI VISIT AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET SECRETARY DURING APRIL 9-15
PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

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1. AMBASSADOR HODGSON MARCH 18 CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA

TO TOUCH BASE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR
WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. IN RESPONSE
TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS, MIYAZAWA REVIEWED
THEIR VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES
FOR MIKI-MIYAZAWA VISITS TO WASHINGTON THIS YEAR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
THE FIXED DATES FOR THE EMPEROR'S VISIT IN OCTOBER.

2. MIYAZAWA SAID HE HAD GONE OVER THIS QUESTION WITH PRIME MINISTER
EARLIER MARCH 18. TIMING OF HIGH LEVEL TRAVEL IS IN FIRST
PLACE DEPENDENT ON PRESENT LIKELIHOOD
THAT DIET SESSION WILL BE EXTENDED
AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEYOND NORMAL MAY 25 TERMINATION DATE, POSSIBLY
TWO MONTHS TO JULY 25. PROBABILITY OF DIET EXTENSION STEMS FROM
ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO ACHIEVE RATIFICATION OF PRC PEACE TREATY
AND NPT IF POSSIBLE; GOVERNMENT HAS MAJORITY IN LOWER HOUSE,
BUT ONLY SHAKY CONTROL OF UPPER HOUSE. IF LOWER HOUSE PASSES A
TREATY, HOWEVER, IT BECOMES LAW ONE MONTH LATER REGARDLESS OF WHETHER
UPPER HOUSE ACTS OR NOT.

3. SECOND FACTOR AFFECTING VISIT TIMING IS PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION
ABOUT DISSOLUTION OF LOWER HOUSE AND CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION. MIKI
HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT THIS, BUT MIYAZAWA SAID HIS
PERSONAL GUESS IS THAT IT PROBABLY WILL OCCUR IN MID-OCTOBER TO EARLY
NOVEMBER TIME FRAME. WITH THESE TWO
MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, IT APPEARS
TO MIKI AND MIYAZAWA THAT IF MIKI CANNOT ARRANGE A VISIT TO WASHINGTO
N
SOMETIME TOWARD THE END OF JULY OR EARLY AUGUST, HE WILL BE UNABLE TO
MAKE VISIT UNTIL SUMMER 1976. MIYAZAWA SAID MIKI HAS NOT MADE UP HIS
MIND; HE WANTS TO GO AT RIGHT TIME,
BUT HE DESIRES MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
THIS YEAR.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MIYAZAWA'S REQUEST FOR INFORMAL ADVICE AS TO
WASHINGTON PROSPECTS, AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION
ABOUT PRESIDENT'S PROJECTED SCHEDULE AND OTHER FACTORS. HE ASSURED
FOREIGN MINISTER THAT, AS PRESIDENT FORD STATED DURING HIS VISIT TO
JAPAN LAST FALL, THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY
WELCOMES PERSONAL CONSULTATIONS.
THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO SOUND OUT USG AND PROVIDE MINISTER WITH
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RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED MIYAZAWA HIS VIEW OF THE
PURPOSE OF A MIKI VISIT, WHETHER GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL
CONTACT OR EMPHASIZING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM OR OBJECTIVE. MIYAZAWA
INDICATED THAT HE SAW THE VISIT AS PRIMARILY DESIGNED
TO GET ACQUAINTED, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT SOME IN GOJ AND PARTY
CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE THAT PRIME MINISTER PRECEDE THE EMPEROR,
TO PAVE THE WAY IN SOME SENSE. HE EMPHASIZED,
HOWEVER, THAT CARE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN NOT RPT NOT TO LINK TWO

VISITS, BECAUSE OF PROHIBITION ON INVOLVING EMPEROR EVEN INDIRECTLY
POLITICAL ENTERPRISES.

5. MIYAZAWA THEN TURNED TO HIS OWN
HOPE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER
AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. CONSIDERING HIS
SCHEDULE, MINISTER SUGGESTED
THAT EARLY APRIL APPEARED BEST TIME
FOR HIM, PERHAPS ONLY TIME. FURTHER
DISCUSSION REFINED THIS TO PERIOD OF APRIL 9-15. MIYAZAWA SAID HE
WANTED IF POSSIBLE TO MEET THE SECRETARY
BEFORE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
AT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS LATER IN THE SPRING. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
DIFFICULTIES OF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AND WAS PERFECTLY WILLING
TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN ANY APPROPRIATE CAPITAL THAT WOULD SUIT
THE SECRETARY'S CONVENIENCE, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO MEET IN
WASHINGTON. IF NO OTHER ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE, MIYAZAWA SAID HE WAS
OF COURSE WILLING TO TRAVEL A DAY OR SO EARLY TO ANY MULTILATERAL
MEETINGS THAT MIGHT OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO
SIT DOWN WITH THE SECRETARY BEFOREHAND.

6. AMBASSADOR HODGSON PROMISED TO TRY TO GET A TENTATIVE INDICATION
OF WASHINGTON POSSIBILITIES DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN THE
DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK.

7. LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE U.S. VISITS BY
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DURING PAST FEW DAYS.
FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES INSIST THE MINISTRY HAS IN NO WAY
FED THESE STORIES AND IS IN FACT EMBARRASSED. THEY ATTRIBUTE THE
COVERAGE TO COMPLETELY UNAUTHORIZED SPECULATION BY REPORTERS
SWEEPING UP FRAGMENTARY RUMORS FROM LOWER LEVELS.
FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT,
BY FOREIGN MINISTER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
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HIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 18, HOWEVER, ALSO RESULTED IN
FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT OF MIYAZAWA'S HOPE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN APRIL.
INTENSE INTEREST OF PRESS IN THESE VISITS WAS EXPLAINED BY SEVERAL
EMBASSY CONTACTS IN PRESS AS ARISING FROM RACE AMONG REPORTERS
AND OBSERVERS TO BE THE FIRST TO DEVINE
WHEN MIKI MAY DISSOLVE THE HOUSE
AND CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH AS MIYAZAWA NOTED IS RELATED TO ANY
PLANS FOR A U.S. VISIT. HODGSON UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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